



Ciclo de Conferências

## ***O papel da União Europeia no Mundo e o Diálogo Intercultural***

### **A UNIÃO EUROPEIA E A RÚSSIA**

Faculdade de Economia, Universidade de Coimbra, 18 de Março

#### **Reassessing Cooperative Relations: The New Russian Pressure on the European Union**

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#### Resumo da intervenção

Since the end of the Cold War, the European Union (EU) and the Russian Federation have developed a unique institutional framework of cooperation. From 1997 onwards, their relationship has been organised under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). Nonetheless, significant evolutions have widened and deepened their relations in a broad array of domains. In order to face the evolution of the relationship and the need to improve its strategic dimension, a new methodology of cooperation has emerged. In 2003, their interaction has been reorganised around four 'common spaces'. These spaces are: (i) a [Common Economic Space](#); (ii) a [Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice](#); (iii) a [Common Space of Cooperation in the Field of External Security](#); (iv) a [Common Space on Research, Education and Culture](#). Nonetheless, despite the approximation experienced between the two biggest European neighbours, their relation is today under serious pressure. Since the re-election of President Vladimir Putin in 2004, the relationship has been characterised by two paradoxical features. On the one hand, the method and the domains of cooperation are quite advanced, whereas on the other hand,

\* O CIEJD enquanto Organismo Intermediário no quadro da Parceria de Gestão estabelecida entre o Governo Português e a Comissão Europeia, através da sua Representação em Portugal.

the quality of the political relationship has deteriorated and the partners have not been able to form a real strategic partnership. The Russian-Georgian war of August 2008 has created an additional pressure on political convergence and on cooperative solutions for European security. Against this paradoxical background of increasing interdependency and tensions, we address the following question: what are the main characteristics, achievements and obstacles in the EU-Russian relationship?